New schemes of SBI

1432. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India has decided to launch two new schemes *viz. Pravasi* Vaibhav and *Pravasi* Smridhi to corner the redemption proceeds of Resurgent India Bonds which matured on 1st October, 2003; and

(b) if so, the reasons for hanging on to the deposits, no longer required for profitable deployment in existing environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India has launched *Pravasi* Samriddhi and *Pravasi* Vaibhav Schemes *w.e.f.* 24th September, 2003 for NRIs including Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) holders.

(b) The schemes were offered to give wider choice to NRIs including RIB holders to invest their savings. The interest rates offered on these schemes were worked out carefully to ensure that the funds received could be deployed profitably.

Withdrawal of Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2003

1433. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Parliament sometime back has since been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Bill will again be introduced with modifications and amendments and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the provisions of the amended Bill will take adequate care of the need to prevent corporate scams and to ensure transparency and accountability of the functioning of the companies to the shareholders and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 7.5.2003 pending with Rajya Sabha contained several provisions with a view to preventing corporate scams, and for ensuring transparency and accountability of the functioning of the companies, such provisions are largely based on recommendations made by Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance and Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) which examined the recent stock market scam.

"Ban on NRI investments in NSC and PPF"

†1434. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned the investment by NRIs in National Saving Certificates (NSC) and the Public Provident Fund (PPF) under Small Savings;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this decision;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The Non Resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in the small savings schemes including National Savings Certificate (NSC), VIII Issue and Public Provident Fund (PPF).

The small savings schemes are designed to cater to the needs of small urban and rural investors in order to inculcate the habit of thrift among the common masses and to provide them a risk-free avenue of investment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.